



not simple

NATSUME ONO

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A
YEAR
FROM
NOW.

AFTER YOUR
REUNION WITH
THAT WOMAN.
I'LL START THE
STORY THERE.



ALL
RIGHT?

prologue

not simple





DAD'S
FOUND OUT
ABOUT OUR
PLAN!

HE SAID
HE'S GONNA
KILL YOU.



THAT'S WHY
I CAN'T SEE
YOU RIGHT
NOW.

IT'S NOT
FUNNY.

GOOD
THING HE
DOESN'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU LOOK
LIKE.

BUT HE
WOULD IF
WE MET.
SO WE CAN'T
BE SEEN
TOGETHER.

I'VE TOLD
YOU WHAT
HE'S DONE
BEFORE,
RIGHT?



I JUST HAVE TO MAKE HIM THINK YOU'RE SOMEONE ELSE.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.



DON'T FORGET. YOU PROMISED YOU'D TAKE ME WITH YOU.



YOU BETTER NOT LEAVE WITHOUT ME.



DAD'LL LET HIS GUARD DOWN IF HE THINKS HE'S GOTTEN RID OF YOU.



...AND I'VE FOUND JUST THE GUY TO BE YOUR STAND-IN.



THAT'S
ALL

HE JUST
MIGHT NOT
EVER USE
HIS LEGS
AGAIN...

I'LL ASK HIM
OUT RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
DAD'S GOONS
AND MAKE IT
LOOK LIKE
WE'RE SEEING
EACH OTHER.



THERE
ARE SO
MANY
OF THEM
THESE
DAYS.

GUTTER PUNKS.
HOMELESS
BECAUSE THEY
THINK IT'S
EASIER THAN
ACTUALLY
DOING ANY
WORK.



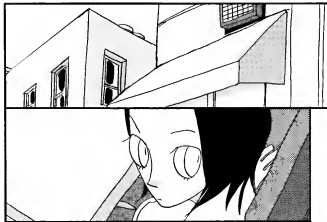
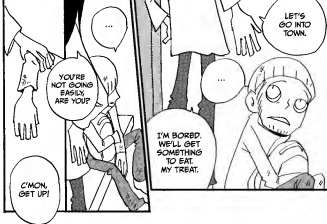
DAD
WON'T
ACTUALLY
KILL HIM.

DON'T
WORRY



WAKE
UP.







WHAT
CAN
I
GET
YOU?

DAD'S MEN
SHOULD
BE ABLE
TO SEE US
FROM HERE.

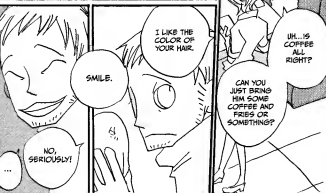


TAKE OFF
THAT HAT.
IT'S GROSS.

BECAUSE
I WANT TO.
IS THAT A
PROBLEM?

WHY ARE
YOU SITTING
SO CLOSE
TO ME?

...



SMILE.

I LIKE THE
COLOR OF
YOUR HAIR.

NO,
SERIOUSLY!

UH...IS
COFFEE
ALL
RIGHT?

CAN YOU
JUST BRING
HIM SOME
COFFEE AND
FRIBS OR
SOMETHING?





I DIDN'T
WANT TO
BE ALONE.



I HAVE
A FRIEND
THERE.



TELL
ME A
STORY.

WHY
NEW
YORK?



HE'S
WRITING
A NOVEL.



WE CAME
TOGETHER
FROM
AUSTRALIA.

HE'S BEEN
LIVING IN
NEW YORK
FOR A
WHILE.

SO HE LET
ME STAY AT
HIS PLACE.



WOULDN'T
FLORIDA'VE
BEEN BETTER?
YEAR-ROUND
SUN AND ALL...





WHEN WE
PARTED WE
PROMISED
EACH OTHER
THAT WE'D MEET
AT THE SAME
PLACE, ON THE
SAME DAY, IN
THREE YEARS.



...

THAT DAY IS
TOMORROW...



YOU
MEAN
ELOPE?



YOU
REALLY
LIKE THIS
BOY?

MAYBE
YOU'RE
JUST
BORED.

MAYBE YOU
JUST WANT TO
BE DIFFERENT
FROM EVERY-
ONE ELSE.



YEAH.

HE'S
COMING
BACK
HERE FOR
WORK...

...BUT HE'S
TAKING ME
WITH HIM
WHEN HE
LEAVES.



I DON'T
WANT TO
TALK TO
YOU ANY-
MORE!

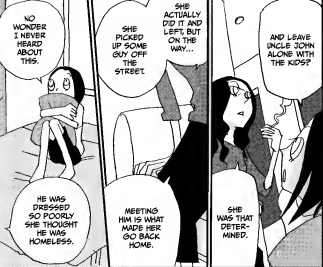
IF YOU'RE
NOT ON MY
SIDE, THEN
FORGET IT!

OR MAYBE
YOU JUST
WANT TO
GET AWAY
FROM DAD.



...YOU
KNOW A
LONG TIME
AGO...

YOUR AUNT
JENNY TRIED
TO GET AWAY
LIKE YOU
ARE NOW.





THEY
MUST'VE
TALKED
ABOUT
A LOT OF
THINGS.

JENNY
TOLD HIM
ABOUT
HERSELF
TOO.

INTERESTING.

EVENTUALLY,
SHE BEGAN
HAVING
SECOND
THOUGHTS
ABOUT
LEAVING HER
FAMILY.



AND HE
URGED HER
NOT TO
RUN AWAY.

AND
SO SHE
DECIDED
TO STAY.



ALL HE KNEW
WAS THAT SHE
WAS SOMEWHERE
IN AMERICA,
AND HE WALKED
FROM STATE TO
STATE FOR HALF
A YEAR TRYING
TO FIND HER.

IT HAD
BEEN
OVER TEN
YEARS
SINCE HE'D
SEEN HIS
SISTER.

IT
TURNED
OUT HIS
SISTER...

...WAS
POSSIBLY
HIS MOTHER,
WHICH IS WHY
HE WAS SO
DRIVEN TO
FIND HER.



SHE TOLD
ME THEY
MADE A
PROMISE
WHEN THEY
PARTED.



WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THE
GUY?



BUT SHE
DIDN'T
WANT IT.

HE WAS
MORE THAN
TEN YEARS
YOUNGER
THAN HER.



TO MEET
IN THREE
YEARS...

AND
TELL EACH
OTHER HOW
THEY'D BEEN
DOING.



JENNY WAS
SURE THIS
MAN FELL IN
LOVE WITH
HER, AND THAT
IF SHE'D
WANTED IT...

... SHE
COULD'VE
SPENT THE
REST OF
HER LIFE
WITH HIM.



SHE DID SAY,
THOUGH, THAT
THE NEXT TIME
THEY MET SHE
WAS SURE
SHE'D LEAVE
WITH HIM.



YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT DAY SPECIFICALLY, THEN?

SHE DIDN'T TELL ME.



IT'LL BE THREE YEARS THIS YEAR.



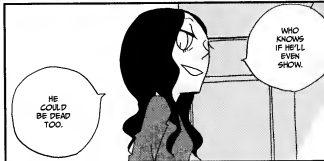
DID THEY EVER MEET AGAIN?



SHE MUST'VE BEEN DISAPPOINTED.



BUT OF COURSE, JENNY'S NO LONGER WITH US.



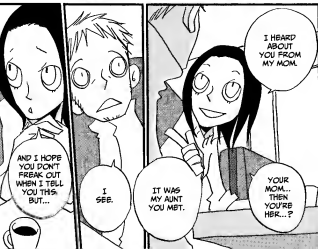
HE COULD BE DEAD TOO.

WHO KNOWS IF HE'LL EVEN SHOW.



IT WON'T BE AS EASY WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.

IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING DRASTIC, DO IT WHILE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, IRENE.





IN AN
ACCIDENT.

MY AUNT
DIED LAST
YEAR.



I'LL TAKE
YOU THERE
TOMORROW.

I'LL
BORROW
MOM'S
CAR.



THANK
YOU.



IS HER
GRAVE...
NEARBY?

IT'S
A BIT
OF A
WAYS.

...CAN
I GO
VISIT IT?

OF
COURSE.
SHE'D
LIKE THAT.



DON'T
LOOK AT ME
LIKE THAT.

IT WASN'T
MY FAULT.



I GOTTA
CALL MY
DAD.

OH, HEY.
DID YOU
EVER FIND
YOUR
SISTER?



YOU
SEEM
NICE.



...



OH!



ACTUALLY,
DON'T TELL
ME—I KNOW
MY MOM'LL
WANNA HEAR
THIS TOO.



UM...

I NEED
TO GET
TO THE
STATION.



MOM'LL
LOVE THIS.
DAD WON'T
BE AROUND
FOR DINNER,
SO IT SHOULD
BE ALL
RIGHT.



I'LL
INVITE YOU
TO DINNER
TONIGHT,
SO TELL
US THEN.

...SURE.



BUT MAKE
IT QUICK.
AND DON'T
GO TOO
FAR.

THERE'S
ONE
IN THE
DINER.

WHAT
DID
YOU
NEED
TO DO?

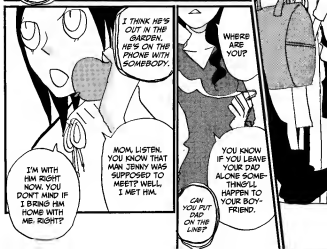
I HAVE
TO MAKE
A CALL.

BATH-
ROOM.



IRENE.

MOM?



I THINK HE'S
OUT IN THE
GARDEN.
HE'S ON THE
PHONE WITH
SOMEBODY.

WHERE
ARE
YOU?

I'M WITH
HIM RIGHT
NOW. YOU
DON'T MIND IF
I BRING HIM
HOME WITH
ME, RIGHT?

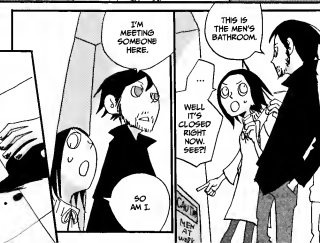
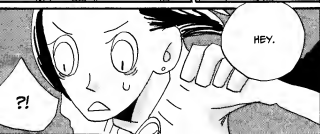
MOM, LISTEN.
YOU KNOW THAT
MAN JENNY WAS
SUPPOSED TO
MEET? WELL,
I MET HIM.

YOU KNOW
IF YOU LEAVE
YOUR DAD
ALONE SOME-
THING'LL
HAPPEN TO
YOUR BOY-
FRIEND.

CAN
YOU PUT
DAD
ON THE
LINE?









IAN!!

...



...



OH, NO...
THEY
REALLY
DID IT...

SOMEBODY
CALL AN
AMBULANCE...











MY
MOTHER'S
ALIVE.

SHE
WANTS
TO SEE
HIM!



MELODRAMA
TO THE
VERY END...



...



NOW THAT
SHE'S GONE,
LIFE HAS NO
MEANING
FOR HIM.

BUT SHE'S
NOT DEAD!
I MEAN,
IT WASN'T
MY AUNT!

IT
WAS MY
MOTHER
AND SHE
LIED
TO ME.



BESIDES,
LOOK AT HIM.
DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S A
LITTLE LATE?



LOOK, HE
DIDN'T HAVE THE
WILL TO LIVE
ANYMORE.
THERE'S
NOTHING I
CAN DO.



WHAT?!
YOU'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE HIS
FRIEND!

AREN'T
YOU THE
ONE HE
LIVED WITH
IN NEW
YORK?

... YOU
KNOW ALL
ABOUT
HIM, DON'T
YOU?

WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHERE'S
HIS SISTER?

WHY
AREN'T YOU
HELPING
HIM?! WHY
AREN'T YOU
TOUCHING
HIM?!



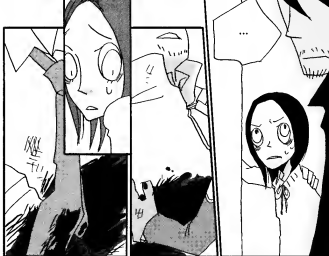
I CAN'T
TELL YOU.



LET'S JUST SAY
HE DIDN'T HAVE
MUCH LUCK IN LIFE.
AND WHATEVER
LITTLE HE HAD JUST
RAN OUT BECAUSE
OF YOU.







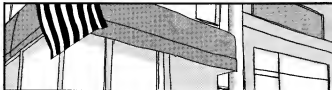


IT'S
NOT
FAIR.



SO ISN'T
IT A GOOD
THING THAT
HE'S DYING?

IF HE
HADN'T
MET MOM,
SHE WOULD
HAVE
LEFT US.









IT'S ABOUT
THIS REALLY
UNLUCKY GUY WHO
FINALLY HITS ROCK
BOTTOM AND
ENDS UP GETTING
KILLED IN A CASE OF
MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

WHAT'S IT
ABOUT?



AND HERE'S
THE THING. THE
MAN WRITING THE
STORY IS GAY.
AND HE HANGS
AROUND THIS OTHER
GUY AND JUST
OBSERVES HIM.



THE RUMOR
IS THAT THE
NOVEL'S
ACTUALLY A
THINLY VEILED
MEMOIR.

IN THE BOOK,
THE WRITER
KILLS HIMSELF
A YEAR AFTER
THE GUY DIES.

not Simple

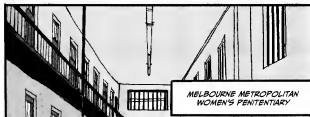
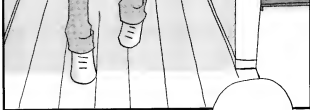
THAT'S
WHAT MY
WIFE SAID.

AND NOW
THEY'RE
SAYING THE
REAL WRITER
DISAPPEARED,
RIGHT?

THAT HE
MIGHT
BE DEAD.

#01 not simple







GOT A MAN
WAITING FOR
YOU ON THE
OUTSIDE?

'COURSE
SHE DON'T.

HER AND
HER MAN
WERE BUSTED
TOGETHER.



I HAVE
A LITTLE
BROTHER
WAITING
FOR ME.

I DO.



... THAT YOU
WERE JACKING
STUFF BECAUSE
YOU NEEDED
MONEY TO LIVE
WITH YOUR
BROTHER?

DIDN'T
YOU SAY
BEFORE...



I DON'T
WANNA
SEE
ANYONE
ELSE
ANYWAY.

HE'S
ALL I
NEED.



HE'S
STILL
YOUNG,
AIN'T
HE?

MAYBE
HE'S
BETTER
OFF AT
HOME.
CLOSE
TO HIS
PARENTS

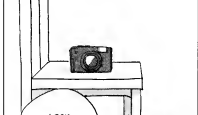


I'M
TAKING
HIM AND
GETTING
OUT OF
TOWN.

WHAT'RE
YOU
GONNA
DO WHEN
YOU'RE
RELEASED
?



TO HELL
WITH THAT
FAMILY.



LOOK
OVER
THERE
AND
SMILE.



LET'S TAKE
ANOTHER
ONE SOON.

OKAY.

CAN
I GO
RUNNING
NOW?

SURE. BE
CAREFUL.



I WONDER
IF IT'LL
COME OUT
ALL RIGHT?

WHY
DIDN'T YOU
HAVE MOM
TAKE IT?

DAD'S
HERE
TODAY
TOO.

I CAN'T
SMILE RIGHT
WHEN THOSE
PEOPLE ARE
AROUND.



HOW
OLD IS HE
AGAIN?

THIRTEEN.

YOU
TWO ARE
PRETTY
FAR APART
THEN.

WERE YOU
PLANNING
ON SKIPPING
TOWN
WITH HIM?

ARMED
ROBBERY.
THAT WAS
PRETTY
RECKLESS.



MY
BROTHER
WANTS
TO BE A
SPRINTER.

REALLY
?

HE'S
DONE
WELL IN
SOME
LOCAL
MEETS.

THAT'S
GREAT.



IT WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
SMALL JOB.

WE WERENT
EXACTLY
PLANNING
ON GETTING
CAUGHT.

BUT
HERE
I AM.



YOU'LL
GET TO
SEE YOUR
LITTLE
BROTHER.

WELL,
YOU'RE OUT
TOMORROW.



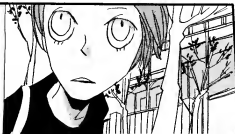
YOU
PARTNERED
WITH THE
WRONG
MAN.

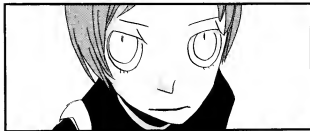
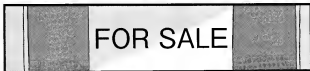
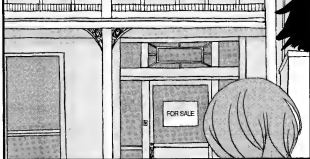
TELL ME
ABOUT IT.

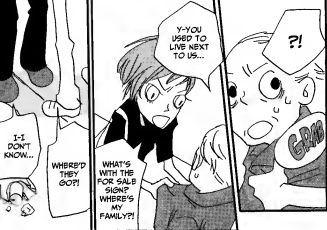
I SHOULD'VE
DONE MORE
RECON BEFORE
I AGREED
TO DO IT.

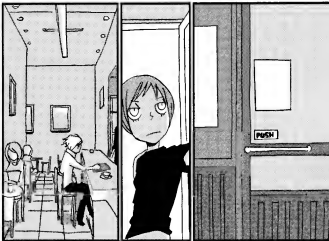




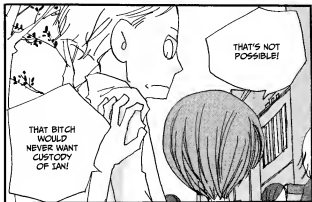














A DRUNK
LIKE HER
COULD
NEVER
SUPPORT
HIM!!



SHE WANTS
HIM TO
SUPPORT HER.

MAYBE...



MY NEW
WIFE
DOESN'T
LIKE
CHILDREN.

DON'T
GIVE
ME
THAT!



WHY DIDN'T
YOU CLAIM
CUSTODY?!

SHE CAN
SPEND ALL
THE CHILD
SUPPORT
ON BOOZE.



AN
ALCOHOLIC
...

WITH ZERO
ABILITY
TO MAKE A
LIVING...

AND, MOST
IMPORTANTLY,
SHE'S NOT
EVEN HIS
BIOLOGICAL
MOTHER.



YOU
WANT TO
KNOW THE
TRUTH?

THE TRUTH
IS SHE JUST
TOOK IAN AND
WENT BACK
TO ENGLAND.



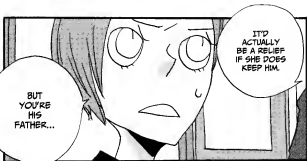
DO YOU
THINK THEY'D
ACTUALLY
GIVE HER
CUSTODY?



I REALLY
AM GETTING
REMARIED.

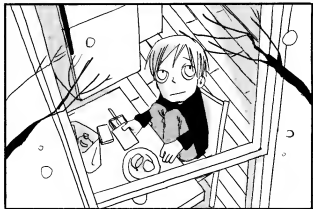
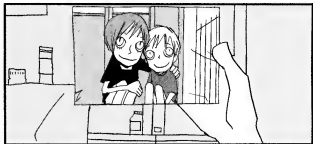
HAVE YOU
TRIED TO
GET HIM
BACK?

NO,
I'VE
BEEN
BUSY.













YOU DRINK
ANY MORE
AND YOU'LL
REALLY DIE!

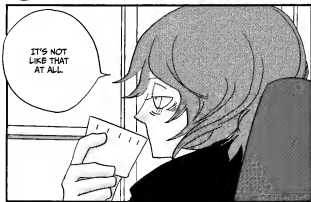
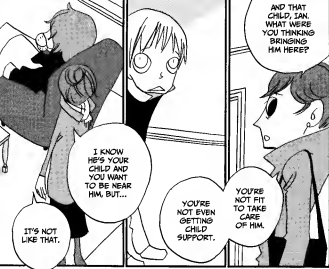


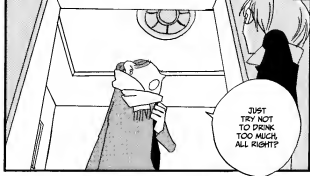
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THIS!

I WON'T
BE ABLE
TO LOOK
AFTER YOU
IF YOU'RE IN
HOSPITAL.

ALL I
NEED YOU
TO LOOK
AFTER IS
MY TAB.









SHE'S
ALWAYS
BEEN
LIKE THIS.



EVERYTHING
SHE'S DONE
HAS BEEN ON
THE SPUR OF
THE MOMENT.

EVEN HER
DIVORCE.
I HAD NO
IDEA.



THEN
SHE COMES
BACK OUT
OF NOWHERE
ASKING ME
FOR MONEY.

I HAVE A
FAMILY OF
MY OWN.

I CAN TRY
AND HELP,
BUT I CAN'T
RESCUE HER...
ANY MONEY I
GIVE HER GOES
STRAIGHT TO
THE BOTTLE.







NEXT
TIME I'LL
TELL HER
EVERYTHING
ABOUT
YOU TOO.

I'M
SURE
SHE'LL
CALL
AGAIN.



IS SHE
HERE?

I
THINK
SO.

BUT WHY
WAS SHE
ROBBING
STORES?



YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT
EITHER?

...



YOUR
MOTHER
TOLD
ME NOT TO
TELL ANYONE,
SO I TOLD
YOUR SISTER
I DIDN'T KNOW
WHERE YOU
WERE.

BUT I
SHOULDN'T
BE KEEPING
QUIET.









BY THE WAY, WHY DID THEY DIVORCE?

IAN? HE'S HERE TOO. MM... HE'S DOING ALL RIGHT.



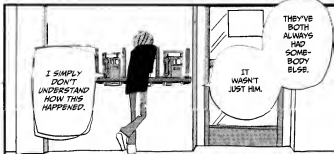
MM-HM.

SHE'S HERE.



IT WAS THE BOTH OF 'EM.

BECAUSE OF HIS AFFAIR?



I SIMPLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THIS HAPPENED.

IT WASN'T JUST HIM.

THEY'VE BOTH ALWAYS HAD SOMEBODY ELSE.

ANYWAY,
THANKS.

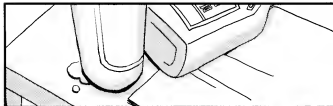
I WONDER
WHERE
THEY WENT
WRONG...

THEY
WERE SO
IN LOVE
WHEN
THEY GOT
MARRIED.

I'LL TRY
TO BE
THERE AS
SOON AS
I CAN.

IT WAS
REALLY
ENVIABLE.







DON'T
TELL MY
SISTER
ABOUT
THIS.

SHE'LL
JUST
SPEND
IT ON
ALCOHOL.



GAVE
YOU
SOME
MONEY,
DIDN'T
SHE?

MY
SISTER...

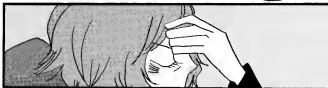
SHE
SAID
SHE'LL
BRING
SOME
NEXT
WEEK...

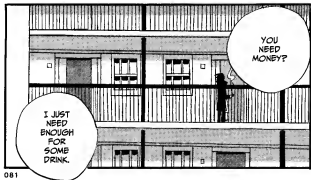
UM... SHE
SAID SHE
DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
ON HER...



...JESUS.

YOU'RE ALL
USELESS.









...WILL A
BOY DO?

WHEN
YOU SAY
KIDS...



THERE'S
SOMETHING
FOR EVERYONE
AND SOMEONE
FOR EVERY-
THING.



YOU
SURE?

ISN'T
HE YOUR
SON?



THEN COULD
YOU FIND A
CUSTOMER
FOR HIM?









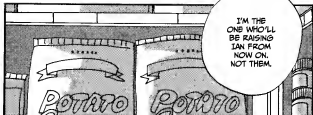












I'M THE
ONE WHO'LL
BE RAISING
IAN FROM
NOW ON.
NOT THEM.



I'LL TRY
TO PAY
YOU BACK
AS SOON
AS I CAN.

I HOPE
YOU TWO
CAN FINALLY
FIND SOME
PEACE.



...BUT
WHAT
ABOUT
HER?



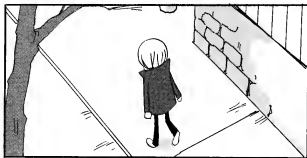
AS FOR IAN...
IT'LL BE HARD
ON HIM AT
FIRST, BUT
I THINK HE'LL
BE HAPPIER
IN THE END.

...I'M NOT
WORRIED
ABOUT
THAT FOR
MYSELF.

THAT
BASTARD'S
OFF LIVING
HIS OWN
LIFE WITH-
OUT A
CARE...











IAN'S
WORKING?



HONESTLY,
I DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH
LONGER I CAN
LOOK AFTER
THEM.





I'M THE
REASON SHE
BECAME AN
ALCOHOLIC.

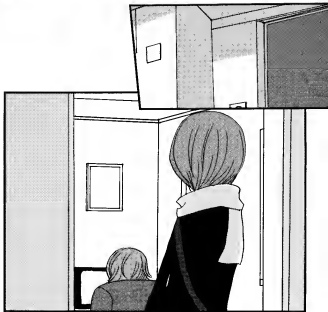


SHE WAS
TOO YOUNG
TO BE
TRAPPED AT
HOME AS A
HOUSEWIFE.

SHE WAS
NEVER
A GOOD
MOTHER.

BUT...
SHE WASN'T
A DRUNK.







YOU
GOT HERE
FASTER
THAN I
EXPECTED.



I THOUGHT
IT'D TAKE YOU
LONGER.



I WAS HOPING
TO WORK THAT
CUTE "LITTLE
BROTHER" OF
YOURS AS LONG
AS I COULD.



YOU TOOK
IAN WITH
YOU TO GET
BACK AT ME,
DIDN'T YOU?





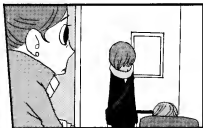
...THAT'S
RIGHT.



HURRY UP
AND TAKE
THAT KID...



AND
GET
OUT.

















OKAY!



IT'S NOT
THAT I
DON'T LIKE
THE KID.

WE'RE
RELATED,
AFTER
ALL.

I
COULDA
LOVED
HIM.



WHY
HAVEN'T
YOU
LEFT
YET?

AUNTIE
GAVE ME
THE KEY.





I'LL BE
WITH YOU
UNTIL
YOU DIE.

I'LL
LOOK
AFTER
YOU.

I'LL DO
ANYTHING.



#04

not simple















I'LL LEAVE
SOME MONEY
HERE, SO
MAKE SURE
YOU EAT.



I WISH I
COULD RUN
TO WHERE
THEY ARE.



I WONDER
HOW KYLIE
AND MOM
ARE DOING?

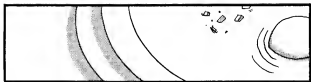
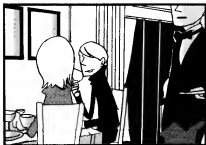






IT WOULD BE FUN IF I COULD LIVE WITH KYLIE...





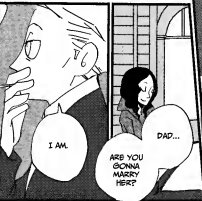
YOU TWO
LOOK SO
ALIKE.



NOW I
FINALLY
GET TO
MEET
YOU.

HE'S
BEEN
PUTTING
THIS OFF,
BUT...







HE LIKES
RUNNING.

HE
WANTS
TO RUN
HOME.

IS
I AM NOT
COMING
WITH US?



MOM
DOESN'T
LIKE IT
BITTER.



DAD
DIDN'T
SEEM
HAPPY
WHEN SHE
SAID WE
LOOKED
ALIKE.



*I MISS
KYLIE.*

*I WANNA
SEE HER
AND TALK
TO HER.*



DID
YOU RUN
HERE
AGAIN,
IAN?

HERE'S
THE
LETTER.

STAY
AND HAVE
SOMETHING
TO DRINK.



THANKS,
BUT I
HAVE TO
GET
BACK.



SEE
YOU.

YEAH,
BYE.





IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE
NOW.

KYLIE.

WHEN'RE
YOU TWO
GONNA
SEE EACH
OTHER?

WE CAN'T...
NOT UNTIL
HE REACHES
HIS GOAL.

SO
WHAT IS
HIS GOAL,
KYLIE?

I DON'T
KNOW.

BUT HE'S
TRYING TO
KEEP HIS
PROMISE.

I'M
PRETTY
SETTLED
IN.

HASN'T
IT BEEN
LONG
ENOUGH?



...I HAVE
AN IDEA
OF WHAT IT
MIGHT BE.

BUT...



BUT
HE'LL SAY
HE MADE A
PROMISE.

IF I'M
RIGHT,
IT'LL STILL
BE A WHILE
BEFORE
WE MEET
AGAIN.

OF
COURSE
NOT. I DO
WANT TO
SEE HIM.

AND
YOU'RE
FINE
WITH
THAT?

AND
SO...

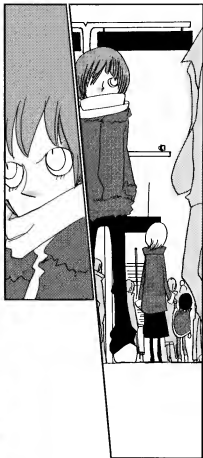
I'LL
WAIT
FOR
HIM.





#05 not simple

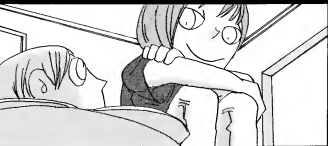














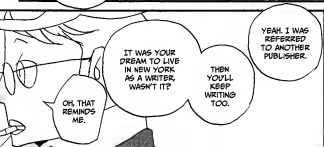




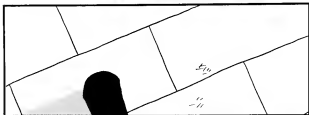


#06 not simple

















YEAH.

YOU
FINISH THE
INTERVIEW?



I CAN'T
USE THIS
SECTION.

BUT...



BREAKING
JOHNSTON'S
RECORD.

YOU THINK
YOUR DREAM
WILL COME
TRUE?

PROBABLY.

THIS
GOAL OF
YOURS, YOU'RE
ALMOST THERE,
AREN'T YOU?



HOW
LONG HAS
IT BEEN
SINCE YOU'VE
SEEN HER?

UM...

NOT SINCE
I WAS
FOURTEEN.



AFTER
I DO IT,
I GET TO
GO SEE
MY SISTER.

HUH?



MY SISTER'S
IN LONDON.
WE PROMISED
TO MEET
AGAIN WHEN
MY DREAM...

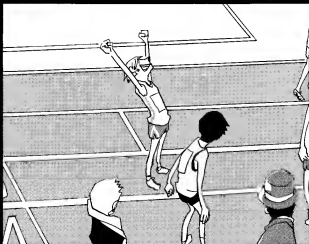
COMES
TRUE.

REALLY...



FOR SOME
REASON, I
SOMETIMES
THINK...





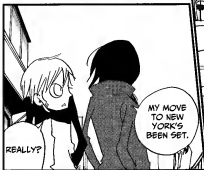


HE ONLY
FINISHED
FOURTH, BUT
THE WAY HE
CELEBRATED...



A
"DREAM,"
HUH?







THEY MIGHT
TAKE IT THE
WRONG WAY.

NOT MANY
PEOPLE
KNOW WHY
YOU DID IT.

ABOUT
YOUR LITTLE
"PERFORMANCE"
THE OTHER DAY.



...DIDN'T
YOU
USE OUR
INTERVIEW
IN THE
ARTICLE?

BY
THE WAY,
WHY...



YBAH.



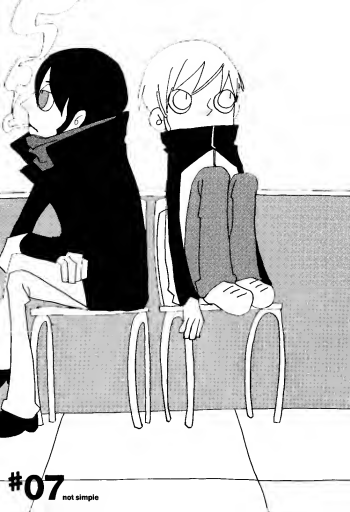
I DECIDED
TO KEEP IT
TO MYSELF.

I'VE
BEEN
TOLD.
BUT
IT'S
OKAY.

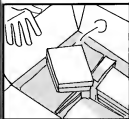


FOR MY
NOVEL.











NOT YET.

NO.



YOU GAVE
YOUR WORD.



FORGET
ABOUT IT.

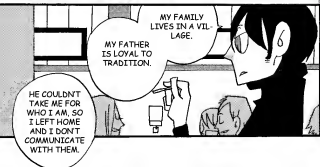
SEEMS
YOU'RE
LEAVING
SOON?



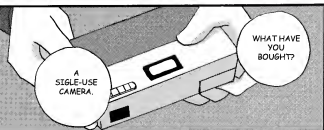
I'VE ASKED
MY SISTER'S
FRIEND TO
CONTACT
HER.

NOW I'M
WAITING
FOR THE
REPLY.

IT MAY COME
ANYTIME.











YOU SEE?
YOU MADE
ME LAUGH.







THAT'S ALL?

WHAT IS THIS?

I DON'T KNOW.



I ASKED HER FRIEND TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED.

BUT SHE COULDN'T GET HER ON HER OLD NUMBER.

AND THIS IS ALL SHE LEFT TO YOU?



HERE...





I'LL HELP
ANY WAY
I CAN.

SO, WHAT
DID YOU
DECIDE?



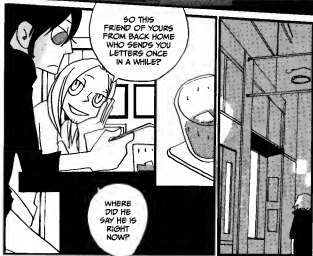
SHE
COULD BE
WITH
THAT
FRIEND IN
AMERICA

MAYBE SHE
ASKED HIM
NOT TO TELL
ANYTHING
TO YOU.

UNLESS YOU
WANT TO SEE
HER ONLY
WHEN COR-
NERED, IT'S
TIME TO LOOK
FOR HER.



I WANT TO
FIND HER





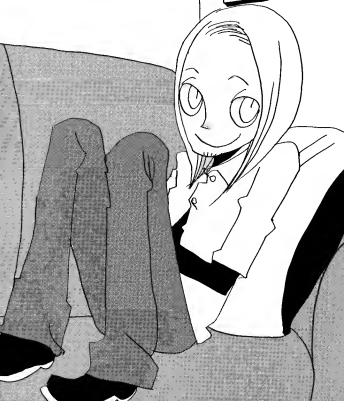


IT'S SO
OBVIOUS.



I'M JUST
CURIOUS.
THAT'S ALL.







I'M ON DEADLINE.

C'MON,
TAKE A
BREAK.



I
BROUGHT
SOME
BEER.



I ALSO
HAVE
YOUR
MAIL.



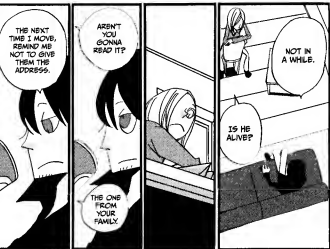
SOMETHING
FROM YOUR
PUBLISHER
AND SOMETHING
FROM AUSTRALIA.

IS IT
FROM
YOUR
FAMILY?



HAVE YOU
GOTTEN ANY
LETTERS
FROM THAT
WANDERING
FRIEND OF
YOURS?







IAN.



BUT ISN'T IT A GOOD THING...

THAT THEY'RE CONTACTING YOU?

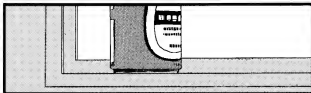


HEY, THERE'S A WEIRD DUDE STANDING OUTSIDE.

HE'S LOOKING UP HERE ALL SLACK-JAWED.



HEH, SOMEBODY JUST BUMPED INTO HIM.



ARE YOU
COMING
RIGHT
BACK?



BECAUSE
I COULD
HOOK YOU
UP WITH A
JOB IF YOU
WANT.

TAKS A
LOAD
OFF.

AND GO
TAKE A
SHOWER.

OKAY



THIS
IS MY
NEIGHBOR,
RICK.



I WENT
AROUND
AND VISITED
EVERYONE SHE
KNEW HERE,
BUT I DIDN'T
FIND OUT
ANYTHING.

SO I
THOUGHT
I'D GO
BACK TO
MELBOURNE.







HE'S
EXACTLY
LIKE A
CHARACTER
I CREATED.



HE'S
FASCI-
NATING.



BUT THAT
WAS AGES
AGO...

IN A
NOVEL I
WROTE...
WHEN
I WAS
STILL LIVING
WITH MY
PARENTS.



SOME-
ONE WHO
WAS SIMPLY
HIMSELF AND
NOTHING
MORE.

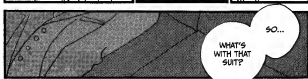
A PERSON
UNCLOUDED
BY TOO
MUCH
THOUGHT.



MAYBE YOU
SHOULD
MAKE HIM A
CHARACTER
IN YOUR
NOVEL?



BACK
THEN THAT'S
WHAT I
WANTED
TO BE.







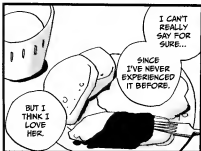
NO, I
DON'T
THINK SO.



YOU
MEAN
LIKE
LOVE?

YEAH.

YOU
HAVEN'T
BEEN IN
LOVE YET
AT YOUR
AGE?



I CAN'T
REALLY
SAY FOR
SURE...

SINCE
I'VE NEVER
EXPERIENCED
IT BEFORE.

BUT I
THINK I
LOVE
HER.



IT'S LIKE
HOW I FEEL
WHEN I THINK
ABOUT MY
SISTER

OF COURSE
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT
TOO.



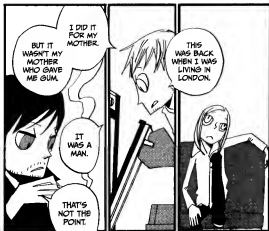














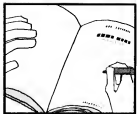
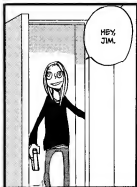






#09 not simple







IT'S
BETTER
THAN YOUR
LAST ONE.

BUT MAN,
HOW WERE
YOU ABLE
TO WRITE
THIS?



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
THEY
GAVE US
SUCH
SHORT
NOTICE.



YOU
HAVEN'T
PACKED
AT ALL.

YOU KNOW
WE HAVE TO
GET OUT OF
HERE IN A
FEW DAYS.





WE ASKED
HER FRIEND
TO CALL
HERE IF
SHE FOUND
ANYTHING
OUT.

AND
WHERE
WAS
SHE?



THEY
FOUND
OUT
WHERE HIS
SISTER IS.

WHAT'S
UP?



YOU HAVE A
CALL FROM
MELBOURNE.

IT'S
YOUR
SISTER'S
FRIEND.



A PRISON
ON THE
OUTSKIRTS
OF LONDON.





THANKS
FOR
EVERY-
THING.



BUT I
THINK I'M
GONNA
GO.

I DON'T
KNOW IF
I'LL GET TO
SEE HER...



YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
SEE ME
OFF.



THANKS.



I HOPE
YOU GET
TO SEE
HER.

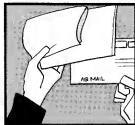
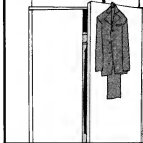


YEAH, I'LL
COME TELL
YOU ALL
ABOUT IT.

PLUS
YOUR
SUIT'S
STILL
HERE.



COME
BACK HERE
WHenever
YOU WANT.





WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
FACE?

HEH
HEH.



ANOTHER
LETTER
FROM YOUR
PARENTS?



AND
THEN—
WHACK.

MY OLDER
BROTHER
FOUND ME.



SIGH...



BUT I'LL
BE BACK
SOON.



IT'S
BEEN TWO
YEARS
SINCE I
RAN AWAY.
I'D SAY
I HAD A
GOOD RUN.

SO NOW
I GOTTA
GO BACK
HOME.



WALK
AROUND
TO ALL
KINDS OF
PLACES.

LIKE
THAT
GUY.

I WANNA
GO ON A
TRIP...



DON'T
WORRY.

HE'S
PROBABLY
STILL
WANDERING
AROUND.







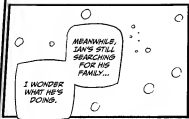


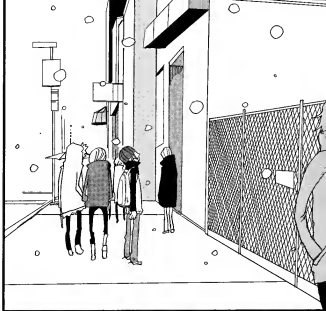
WE'LL BE
WAITING.

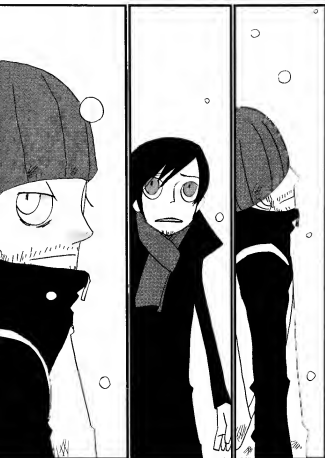


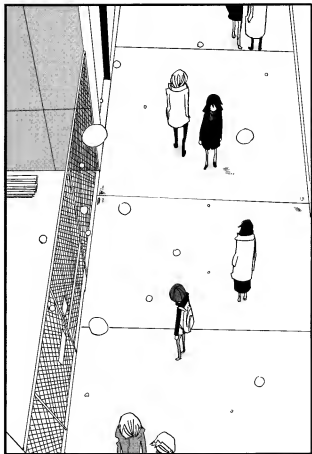
BUT THEY
KEEP
FINDING
ME.

HERE
I AM
TRYING TO
AVOID MY
FAMILY...











#10 not simple



GO
TAKE A
SHOWER.



THE
BATH-
ROOM'S
DOWN
THERE.

OKAY.







NO.
HE HAS
CHANGED.



...TO TELL
YOU MY
STORY.

I DON'T
KNOW IF
YOU CAN USE
IT FOR YOUR
NOVEL, BUT...



YBAH.

I'M
MANAGING
TO MAKE
A LIVING
OFF IT.

I
PROMISED
...



STILL
WRITING?

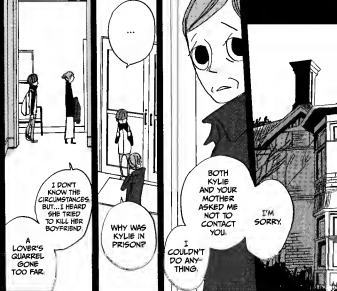




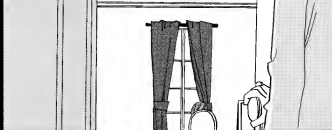














I DON'T
WANT TO
SEE YOUR
FACE.



DON'T
STAND
THERE.



YOU'RE
TOO LATE.



YOU ARE
A FOOL...



KYLIE
WAS
WAITING
FOR YOU.

I MADE A
PROMISE
TO HER.



YOUR
MOTHER,
MAYBE.

I WONDER
WHERE YOU
GOT THAT
FROM.



YOU'RE
NOT MY
MOTHER?

YOU'RE...

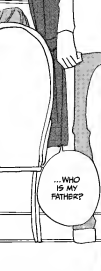


...I'M
NOT



IS
KYLIE MY
MOTHER?





WHEREAS
ALL HER
FATHER
HAD WAS
TACT.

I WONDER
WHO YOU
REALLY
TOOK
AFTER.



WHO DO
YOU THINK
IS YOUR
FATHER?



THEN
YOU
KNOW.







MAYBE
IT WAS
BECAUSE
OF YOU.

BUT BECAUSE
SHE STAYED
HERE WITH ME,
WE WERE
ABLE TO MAKE
AMENDS.

SHE
WASNT
A GOOD
DAUGHTER
EITHER.

I WASNT
A GOOD
MOTHER
TO HER.







AFTER
THAT...

I DIDN'T
KNOW
WHAT
TO DO.

I
WALKED.

AND
WALKED.

SO I
WALKED.



YOU
MEET
A LOT
OF NICE
PEOPLE.

WHEN YOU
WALK...

THEY
WERE
KIND.

BUT...

I'M STILL
HERE NOW
THANKS
TO THEM.



MARKET



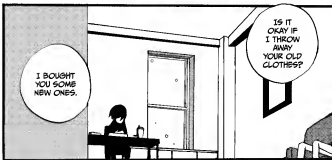
MARKET



#11 not simple















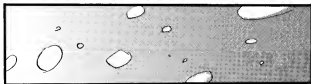
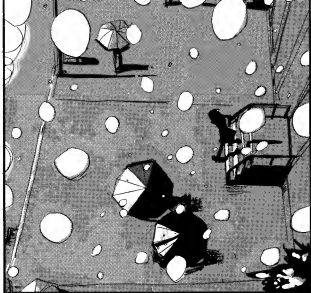




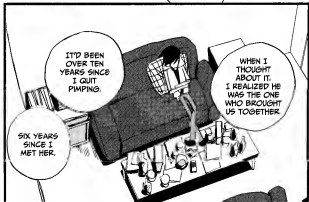
HE WAS
A NICE
MAN WHO
ALWAYS
GAVE ME
GUM.















...IT'S
MY
FAULT
SHE'S
DEAD.



SHE
CONTRACTED
IT FROM ME.



I HOPE HE
HASN'T HAD
SYMPTOMS
YET.









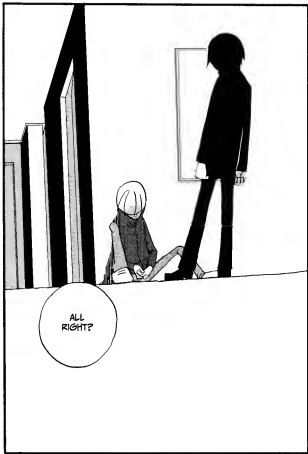


19
П...



YOUR LIFE IS
UNBELIEVABLE.

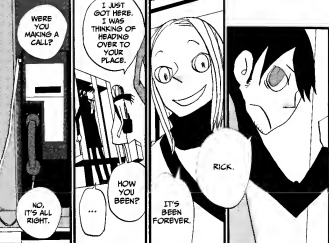




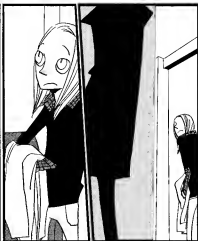


#12 not simple











MY
BED.

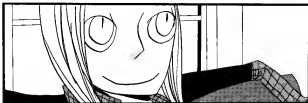


DO
WHAT-
EVER
YOU
WANT.

IS THAT
COOL?

I'LL
CALL AND
TELL MY
FOLKS.

I DID
COME
ALL THE
WAY TO NEW
YORK.



I'LL
RUN OUT
AND GET
SOME
STUFF.

HOW
ABOUT
I COOK
DINNER?



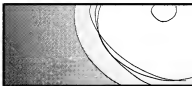
















YEAH.



IT GOT
CROWDED
HERE IN A
HURRY.



IF I HAVE
NOTHING
BUT GOOD
EXPERIENCES
FROM
HERE ON...



... THEN THE
NOVEL WILL
HAVE A HAPPY
ENDING TOO,
RIGHT?





I'M GONNA
GO SEE THE
WOMAN I
PROMISED
TO MEET.

RIGHT.





YEAH.



I'D
LIKE
TO SEE
HER.

FOR
YOUR
NOVEL?



CAN
I GO
WITH
YOU?

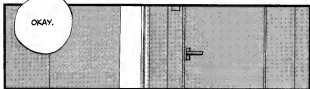


SURE,
BUT
WHY?



I JUST
WANNA
SEE HER,
NOT TALK
TO HER.

I'LL
INTRODUCE
YOU.



OKAY.









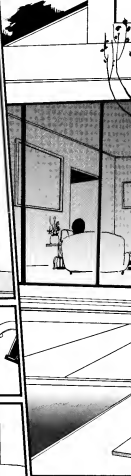




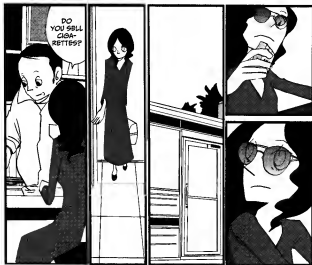




epilogue not simple









COFFEE,
PLEASE.

YOU
LOOK
TIRED.



THAT'S
A SHAME
FOR A
BEAUTIFUL
LADY.









IT
LOOKS
GOOD
ON YOU.



PUT IT
ON MY
CARD.

IT'S
ADOR-
ABLE.



UML...

DONT
WORRY
ABOUT
IT.





DON'T
BE SHY.

EAT
WHATEVER
YOU WANT.



WHY
ARE YOU
DOING
THIS FOR
ME?



PICKING UP AND FEEDING A HOMELESS MAN I JUST MET...



IT'S INTERESTING.

WHAT?

MAYBE
NOT HOME-
LESS...

ARE YOU A
HITCHHIKER?

OH, I'M
SORRY.

...BUT
SOME-
THING
LIKE
THAT.

AM I
WRONG?

I MADE
A BIG
MISTAKE,
DIDN'T I?

HA
HA
HA.







I GET
THAT A
LOT.

YOU'RE
AN ODD
ONE.



WANNA
DRIVE
TO THE
BEACH?









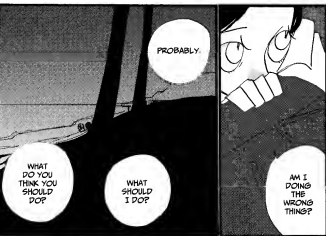


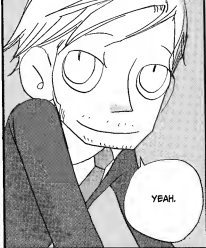
WHERE TO
LOOK FOR
HER NEXT.















HA HA
HA HA.

I MIGHT
TRIP
AGAIN.

I USED
TO BE AN
ATHLETE.

TRACK.
I LOVE
RUNNING.



I HAVEN'T
LAUGHED
LIKE THIS
IN SO
LONG.



HA HA
HA HA.

THEN LET
ME SEE
YOU RUN.
TO THE
EDGE
OF THE
BEACH.



YOU'RE
CARRYING
SO MANY
MORE
BURDENS
THAN I AM.



THAT'S
WHY.



WHEN I
SAW YOU
AT THE
DINER...

WHY
DID YOU
SAY YOU
WERE
HAVING
FUN?

I THOUGHT
I MIGHT
BE HAVING
MORE FUN
THAN YOU.

BECAUSE
YOU
LOOKED
LIKE YOU
WEREN'T.



YOU'RE
NOT
SIMPLE.

YOU'RE
HARD TO
GRASP.



BUT I
WANT IT
TO BE
YOU.

AS LONG
AS I HAD
SOMEBODY,
I THOUGHT
IT DIDN'T
MATTER WHO
IT WAS.

AS LONG
AS I WAS
GOING,
I THOUGHT
I COULD
GO ALONE.



YOU'RE
PURE.

INNOCENT, I
GUESS YOU
COULD SAY.

BUT NOT
LIKE A
CHILD.



IF ONLY
WE WERE
CLOSER
IN AGE.

IT'S SAD
THAT I HAVE
TO LEAVE
YOU HERE.



WE COULD
MEET AND
SHARE WHAT
HAPPENED
TO US.

SHOULD
WE MAKE
A PROMISE
TO MEET
AGAIN?



A YEAR
FROM
NOW...

LIKE
TODAY.

THAT
SOUNDS
NICE.



NO,
THREE
YEARS
FROM
NOW.

ALTHOUGH I
DON'T KNOW
WHETHER
THINGS WILL
BE ALL THAT
DIFFERENT.





THAT JUST
REMINDED
YOU OF
YOUR SISTER,
DIDN'T IT?

end not simple



not simple

VIZ Signature Edition

story and art by Natsume ONO

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Original Japanese edition "not simple"

published by SHOGAKUKAN Inc.

title logo design by chutts

translation / Joe Yamazaki

english adaptation / Anne Ishii

touch-up art & lettering / Gie Cam Luc

design / Fawn Lau

editor / Leyla Aker

VP, production / Ahn Lu

VP, sales & product marketing / Gonzalo Ferreyra

VP, creative / Linda Espinosa

publisher / Hyeon Narita

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned
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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC

P.O. Box 77010

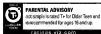
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, January 2010



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